(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The Department of Posts does not procure and stock revenue stamps. These are procured by the State Government directly from India Security Press, Nasik and only sold through post offices. It has been ascertained from the Government of Tamil Nadu that the supply position of revenue stamps is now satisfactory. Instances of shortage of Revenue Stamps elsewhere have not come to notice. General shortage of some of the denominations of other postal stamps due to disruption of printing and supply by ISP, Nasik in Tamil Nadu and elsewhere have come to notice. Normal printing has now been resumed to meet the shortage.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

OFC in Tamil Nadu

3819. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the length of Optical Fibre Cable laid in Tamil Nadu, so far;

(b) whether any more Optical Fibre Cable is likely to be laid in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The total length of Optical Fibre Cable laid in Tamil Nadu is 20,031 Rkms upto 31st March, 2002.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Target for laying of Optical Fibre Cable for the year 2002-2003 is 2600 Rkms.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.